



July 19, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

In this update, I'll focus on the top earners in a specific area of state government to highlight government over-employment and overcompensation. We'll take a look at who's making the most money and where cuts could be considered to save taxpayer dollars.



Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts



You may be surprised to know that **more than 28,000 state workers make more than \$99,000** in total compensation including benefits. Also, the governor hired more than 6,000 new state employees in her first years as governor and state worker pay and benefits make up 60% of the state's total spending. **Perhaps reducing the number of highly paid state administrators with salaries over \$100 thousand per year would be a good place to start saving money before raising your taxes.**

According to the state [Office of Financial Management](#), there are 361 employees working at the Washington State [Administrative Office of the Courts](#), whose vague mission statement is "*To Advance the Efficient and Effective*

Operation of the Washington Judicial System."

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was established in 1957 and operates under the direction and supervision of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Its four main areas of organization are Administration, Information Services, Judicial Services, and Management Services. The AOC also provides coordination, support and oversight of the funding for a variety of special programs including the Board for Court Education, the Gender and Justice Commission, the Judicial Information System Committee, and the Minority and Justice Commission.

Of the 361 state workers employed by the AOC, 296 of them make more than \$99,000 a year in pay and benefits. **Do the math and you'll find that to be a whopping 81% of the entire department!** In fact, the top earner at ACO is the State Court Administrator, making nearly \$143,000 annually in salary alone.

AOC's Chief Information Officer is the number-two guy in salary, making \$122,400 in annual pay. Benefits and paid time off bring his total compensation to \$187,762 per year. That's more than the Judicial Services Division Director, the Management Services Division Director and the Policy and Planning Executive Director, all of whom make more than \$140,000 annually in pay and benefits.

A sizeable number of \$99k+ earners at the AOC are "Integrators" and "System Support Analysts," though I have no idea what those job duties entail. Another large chunk of the \$99k+ club is made up of Superior Court Judges, all of whom make \$114,154 in annual pay and benefits.

You can find specific information related to salary in this department [here](#), or read all the information about state employee salaries on the website for the [Office of Financial Management](#).

Expensive office space at DIS



As you know, the state is building a new home for the Department of Information Services just off the freeway in Olympia. The \$255 million building will soon offer tenants the most expensive rental-office space in Thurston County.

The Olympian had a recent article stating that **the building will include a data center that will house many state agency computer servers previously kept elsewhere, as well as workers from the state Department of Personnel and Office of Financial Management.** According to the article, “the effect of the moves is to drive up rent costs for the three agencies by about \$2.7 million a year. That cost is driven by a \$44-per-square-foot rental rate, and the cost is to be passed on to most other state agencies.”

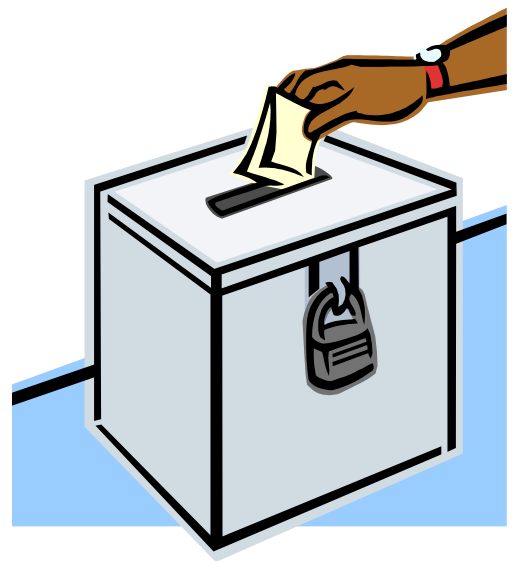
The article goes on to say that “some e-mails *[from concerned taxpayers]* focused on ... the \$70 per hour it has cost to hire a State Patrol trooper to direct traffic,” and “the structure’s expected ‘platinum’ rating for green construction through the international Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, rating system.”

You’ll remember I had a bill last session which would have ended the requirement that public facilities spend one-half of one percent of their total cost on art projects. That bill did not pass, and subsequently **nearly \$1.3 million of your tax dollars will be spent decorating the new DIS building with sculptures, paintings and other art projects.**

[You can read the full article here.](#)

How easy is it to vote in Washington?

I’ve recently learned that it is frighteningly easy for illegal residents of Washington to register to vote when fraudulently obtaining or renewing a driver’s license. This state has become a “Mecca” for people who want to obtain illegal driver’s license, such as common criminals or illegal aliens. According to the law, before issuing an original license or renewing a license, the licensing agent simply asks, “*Do you want to register to vote or transfer your voter registration?*” If the applicant chooses to register or transfer a registration, the agent then asks, “*Are you a United States citizen?*” and, “*Are you or will you be eighteen years of age on or before the next election?*” **If the applicant answers yes to both questions, the agent simply submits the registration.**



The registration form itself has a list of information to be provided by the applicant, including:

- His or her former address if previously registered to vote,
- The applicant's full name,
- Date of birth,
- Current address,
- Mailing address (if different),
- Sex of the applicant, and
- The applicant's Washington state driver's license number, Washington state identification card number or the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

Additionally, there is a check box allowing the applicant to indicate that he or she is a member of the armed forces, national guard, or reserves, or that he or she is an overseas voter, a check box allowing the applicant to confirm that he or she is at least eighteen years of age or will be eighteen years of age by the next election, clear and conspicuous language, designed to draw the applicant's attention, stating that the applicant must be a United States citizen in order to register to vote, and a check box and declaration confirming that the applicant is a citizen of the United States.

The registration form comes with the warning, *"If you knowingly provide false information on this voter registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your qualifications for voter registration you will have committed a class C felony that is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both."* **However, it is very likely that since an illegal resident has already broken the law simply to be here in the first place, he or she will not hesitate to do so again in order to vote.**

In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.

You can always find information online by visiting my website at

www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



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Sincerely,

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